

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A method for approving and paying an invoice for
2 commodities, comprising the steps of:

3 receiving said invoice for commodities from a vendor;

4 generating from said invoice a notification to an
5 authorizer that includes information needed to pay the
6 invoice and a selectable button for authorizing or
7 rejecting payment; and

8 responsive to authorization by said authorizer,
9 creating an automated receipt transaction file and
10 entering said transaction file into a system for
11 payment.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, said system being an enterprise
2 resource planning (ERP) system.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step
2 responsive to rejection by said authorizer, creating an e-
3 mail notification to accounts payable for returning said
4 invoice to said vendor.

1 4. The method of claim 3, said authorizer being the
2 requester of said commodities.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 marking said commodities upon requisition as either
3 receivable or non-receivable commodities.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step
2 responsive to receiving an invoice for a said non-receivable
3 commodity of executing a negative confirmation process for
4 payment authorization.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step
2 responsive to receiving an invoice for a said receivable

3 commodity of executing a positive confirmation process for
4 payment authorization.

1 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of
2 sourcing said non-receivable commodity from a front-end
3 requisition and catalog server; and
4
5 responsive to receiving an invoice for a said non-
6 receivable commodity that was sourced from said server,
7 executing a positive confirmation process for payment
8 authorization.

1 9. The method of claim 8, said positive confirmation
2 process further comprising the steps of:
3
4 recording the acceptance or rejection of payment of the
invoice to a database; and
5
6 notifying a back-end procurement services system when
payment of an invoice is accepted.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step on a
2 scheduled basis of executing a bridge for sending data from
3 said database to said back-end procurement services system
4 for new invoice items for which payment has been accepted.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of
2 posting as goods receipts at said back-end procurement
3 services system said new invoice items for which payment has
4 been accepted.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2 directing said authorizer to review a positive
3 confirmation notice within a front-end requisition and
4 catalog system;

5 responsive to said authorizer logging in to said front-
6 end system, displaying said notification.

1 13. System for approving and paying an invoice for
2 commodities, comprising:

3 a front-end requisition and catalog server;

4 a back-end procurement services system;

5 said front-end server being responsive to an invoice
6 for commodities from said back-end system for
7 generating from said invoice a notification to an
8 authorizer that includes information needed to pay the
9 invoice and a selectable button for authorizing or
10 rejecting payment; and

11 said front-end server being responsive to authorization
12 by said authorizer for creating an automated receipt
13 transaction file and entering said transaction file
14 into said back-end system for payment.

1 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:

2 a user interface to said front-end server for receiving
3 positive confirmation notices and providing positive
4 confirmation responses.

1 15. The system of claim 14, said front-end server further
2 for marking said commodities upon requisition as either
3 receivable or non-receivable commodities.

1 16. The system of claim 15, said front-end system further
2 responsive to receiving an invoice from said back-end system
3 for a said non-receivable commodity that was sourced from
4 said front-end server of executing a positive confirmation
5 process for payment authorization.

1 17. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for approving and paying an
4 invoice for commodities, said method steps comprising:

5 receiving said invoice for commodities from a vendor;

6 generating from said invoice a notification to an
7 authorizer that includes information needed to pay the
8 invoice and a selectable button for authorizing or
9 rejecting payment; and

10 responsive to authorization by said authorizer,
11 creating an automated receipt transaction file and
12 entering said transaction file into a system for
13 payment.

1 18. The program storage device of claim 17, said method
2 steps further comprising:

3 marking said commodities upon requisition as either
4 receivable or non-receivable commodities;

5 responsive to receiving an invoice for a said non-
6 receivable commodity, executing a negative confirmation
7 process for payment authorization;

8 responsive to receiving an invoice for a said
9 receivable commodity, executing a positive confirmation
10 process for payment authorization;

11 sourcing said non-receivable commodity from a front-end
12 requisition and catalog server; and
13

14 responsive to receiving an invoice for a said non-
15 receivable commodity that was sourced from said server,
16 executing a positive confirmation process for payment
17 authorization.

1 19. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for approving and paying an invoice for commodities
3 according to method steps comprising:

4 receiving said invoice for commodities from a vendor;
5
6 generating from said invoice a notification to an
7 authorizer that includes information needed to pay the
8 invoice and a selectable button for authorizing or
rejecting payment; and

9 responsive to authorization by said authorizer,
10 creating an automated receipt transaction file and
11 entering said transaction file into a system for
12 payment.